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HISTORY ILLUSTRATED BY NUMISMATICS.

(*Concluded.*)

We have now reached the most interesting period both of Roman and of numismatic history—that of the empire. The portraits of the several emperors, also those of many of their wives and other relatives, up to the time of its dissolution, are faithfully represented in nearly every instance amongst a thousand coins, if well preserved, without reading the inscription. Not only so, but they also show the principal public buildings, implements of worship and agriculture, manners and customs, etc., of the people, as well as the most important events of the several reigns, which led Addison to remark that "a series of an emperor's coins is his life digested into annals."

About the commencement of the reign of Augustus Cæsar, the bronze Sestertius, or what is commonly known as first brass, or more properly, first bronze, was adopted as the standard for copper, in place of the Æs. The second, third and fourth bronze were in definite proportion smaller in size than the first. But they were all issued only by authority of the Senate, a fact denoted on each of them for many years by the letters S. C. (Senatus Consulto.) It is a remarkable fact that the silver and gold money rarely have these letters upon them, and it is known that the emperors arrogated to themselves the right of coining in these metals, but in the bronze never without the decree of the Senate.

As examples of Addison's remark, there may be mentioned a few historical events recorded on the bronze money. The subjugation of Egypt and the annoucement of its annexation as a mere Roman province is in one instance expressed with characteristic brevity in the two words, *Ægypta cadta;* and on other coins is simply represented by a crocodile chained to a palm tree! Likewise, under Vespasian, when the legions of his son Titus besieged and captured Jerusalem, thereby causing the death of a million of Jews, the emperor records the event by a captive Jewess sitting weeping beneath a palm tree, whilst the conqueror stands in a meditating attitude overlooking the scene. Around them is the legend *Judea Capta.* The closure of the temple of Janus during universal peace by sea and land, between the Roman people and the world, which occurred three times during

the reign of Nero, is commemorated on his bronze coins of all sizes (each having a portrait of the emperor) by a legend announcing the fact, as well as a representation of the temple itself closed. The well-known device of a coin of Trajan is very fine, where the emperor is seen, after paying the debt of the state. in the act of burning the cancelled bonds. In short, as it has been said, "they delineate with fidelity, and preserve with little variations, more portraits of real characters—give more perfect representations of implements, dresses, buildings and symbols—fix precisely more chronological dates—record a greater number of historical events—and afford better traces of manners and customs than any other class of coins."

The denarius is the *penny* of the New Testament. The laborers in the vineyard were each to have a denarius per day. The ten pieces of silver which the woman had (Luke xv, 8), one of which was lost and searched for with diligence; the thirty pieces for which Judas betrayed his Master (Matthew xxvi, 15); the money which the good Samaritan gave to the inn-keeper who was to have the care of him who fell among thieves (Luke x, 35) were all denarii. The penny which (Luke xx, 24) our Lord asked to be shown him, and which bore the image and superscription of Cæsar, was a denarius of Tiberius Cæsar, the then emperor; they are so plentiful that a good one may be purchased in this country for a dollar. The value of these silver pieces, at the period of which we are speaking, was about fifteen cents. As money has depreciated now to less than one-tenth its value then, the denarius would purchase more than as much as a dollar and a half would now. So that a penny a day would not be renumerative wages for a day's labor. E. M.

BROTHER MICKLEY INTERVIEWED.

By permission of J. J. Mickley, the distinguished numismatist, who has but recently returned from Europe, we publish an account of a short interview which took place at the Assembly Building, Philadelphia, July 2, between Mr. Mickley and the editor of this journal. The latter exchanged compliments with the veteran numismatist and opened the *heat.*

Editor.—"This is an excessively warm day, Brother Mickley, but I cannot let the opportunity pass without asking for a few items of interest concerning numismatics in the old world, where for the past three years you have been traveling."

Mickley.—"My dear boy, too warm for anything. I can give you, however, a few items from memory, but for particulars and dates I must refer to my diary, at home, which has been faithfully kept during the whole time of my absence."

Editor.—"Anything of general interest will answer at present, as my object now is to announce your arrival and give the readers of our magazine, who are interested in your travels, an opportunity to congratulate you upon your return in good health from a long and, in many instances, a dangerous journey abroad."

Mickley.—"Yes, there were a few dangers. I was run over by a horse, in Constantinople, which made me a confirmed invalid for a number of days; had the varioloid in Leipsic; fell into Cicero's well, in the ancient palace of the Cæsars; robbed in Jaffa, or "Joppa," of some choice American coins, among them, some fine cents and dimes besides a few fine foreign coins."

Editor.—"Robbed in the Holy Land! I regret to hear that, and hope the surrounding associations and the additional *common cents* the thief possesses may lead to his reform."

Mickley.—"Ah, my dear boy, there are thieves everywhere. You know I met with a greater loss, in Philadelphia, about five years ago. But I haven't much time now, and besides it's too hot for comfort. Come down and see me."

Editor.—"Can't you tell us if you saw any fine American coins abroad?"

Mickley.—"Yes, I saw a United States silver dollar of 1794."

Editor—"Condition?"

Mickley.—"Proof."

Editor.—"Fine proof?"

Mickley.—"Brilliant!"

Editor.—"That's the style; what else?"

Mickley.—"Fine, sharp, beautiful copper cents and early United States silver coins."

Editor.—"Go on; now you strike the chord which awakens undying interest in a numismatist. Any 1799 cents, 1804 dollars or 1802 half dimes?"

Mickley.—"No, none of these, but while visiting the splendid museum, in Stockholm, and enjoying the magnificent display of foreign coins, I saw *only one United States coin* and that, strange to say, an excessively rare piece, *a gold half eagle of* 1815, as fine and sharp as when it fell from the dies."

Editor.—"Did you not meet with any friends among the societies, numismatic and antiquarian, abroad?"

Mickley.—"Friends everywhere; at London and Berlin, particularly, I attended the numismatic associations by special invitation, and was received with every courtesy and attention. My dear boy, we know nothing about coins, in this country, compared to the numismatists and national cabinets abroad. The finest collection of foreign coins, ancient and modern, is probably in the antiquarian museum at Madrid. The coins relating to Spain (Celtiberean, Roman and Gothic), are very complete and in the finest possible condition. The more modern Spanish coins are arranged in perfect series and in all varieties. The collection of ancient, Greek and Roman coins in this cabinet is, no doubt, the finest in the world. While in Saragossa, I learned that a large hoard of Roman coins was found near there, some of which I examined."

Editor.—"Not wishing to detain you, and in hopes of receiving, at some future time, some of those items from your diurnal memo-

randa, together with full particulars of your fall in Cicero's well, and other matters of interest, I will cease the interview."

Mickley.—"Perhaps I may furnish your magazine with some of my travels; I have them all carefully noted. I was above the first cataract up the Nile, in Egypt, a distance of seven hundred miles. Visited Lapland, in the Arctic regions, and, while abroad, visited twenty-four different mints, a large number of museums, etc."

We copy the following interesting letter, concerning Brother Mickley's movements abroad, from the Boston *American Journal of Numismatics:*

EDITORS OF THE NUMISMATIC JOURNAL:

You allowed me, once before, to write familiarly about our friend Mr. Mickley, who has been for three years on an exploration through all Europe and parts of the adjacent continents. He was looking for all that is curious, not only in the numismatic and antiquarian lines, but also the buildings and works of art, the appearances of town and country, and the ways and customs of the people generally.

I am happy to inform you of his safe return, on the second day of June. I remembered the fate of some other numismatic friends, and hoped he would not form another case. Let me explain. Some thirty years ago, there were four of us, in Philadelphia, engaged in forming cabinets of coins; three on private account, one for the public. We often conferred together and helped each other. As time rolled on, one was buried in the Pacific Ocean, on his way home from California; another went down in the Arctic, returning from Liverpool; the other two went and came safely; Mr. Mickley is one of them, Yet he was not always out of danger. You were told about his being knocked down and nearly killed, in Constantinople. An equally dangerous but more classie fall (one perhaps which some admirers of Tully would have risked) was down in Cicero's well, in Cæsar's palace, at Rome. It did not kill him, but he shudders at the thought of it.

I was in hopes to tell you, in time for the July magazine, of what he has done for the Mint, in procuring cabinet coins; but his boxes are not unpacked, and what I may have to state thereon must not be done in a hurry. I believe he is going to bring us down to the last dates, in most of the European issues. He has also, at my desire, succeeded in getting (with much difficulty) a coin of the ancient city of Philadelphia. Herein I was very desirous to triumph over Appleton, Anthon, Wynn, Jenks, everybody on this side of the Atlantic; and for more than one reason. In ancient history there was no Boston, no New York, no Chicago; but there was a Philadelphia. Twice it is named, and with honor, in the New Testament; and the amiable William Penn, eager to commemorate and to commend Brotherly Love, gave the name to his Capital—so eligibly poised between the freezing North and the blazing South. So when I get this coin in a conspicuous place, I expect it to attract the attention of all modern Philadelphians, as well as outside barbarians.

As yours is an Antiquarian journal, it will come in play to tell what a strange sight he saw at Madrid. He stood face to face with the famous Charles V, who died in 1558! Not a phantom, nor a statue, but the very visage and corporeal frame of the monarch, in imperial attire.

It happened in this way. Don Pedro, Emperor of Brazil, traveling as a private gentleman, arrived at Madrid about the same time with Mr. Mickley. The body of Charles, which was embalmed, had never been seen since the obsequies; *requiscat in pace* was the sacred injunction. But, by an act of special favor, the lid of the sarcophagus was removed; and the distinguished visitors, from North and South America, saw the Emperor of Germany;

King of Spain, of the two Sicilies and Jerusalem; Archduke of Austria; Duke of Burgundy, Flanders and Tyrol; and Lord of America. The nose was a little broken, and the skin was black as jet; but "to this complexion we must come at last." It was a sublime incident in the history of the Reformation, when the intrepid Luther stood in the same presence, at the Diet of Worms, in 1521. At the end of three centuries and a half, it makes another appearance to other spectators. There are pictures of the former audience; I could wish to have a photograph of the latter.

Mr. M. has complied with another request, in bringing me an almanac from Finland; that I may know how the sun behaves, when he will not rise, and does not set. Mr. M. looks about ten years younger than when he left, and twenty years younger than he really is. The reality may always be remembered by the "cent of 1799," which, as time advances, turns into gold.

W. E. DUBOIS.

U. S. Mint, Philadelphia.

REVERSES OF GREEK AND ROMAN COINS.

BY JOHN PINKERTON.

As that side of the coin on which any portrait is delineated is commonly termed the *face* or *obverse*, so the opposite side is termed the *reverse*.

These reverses, in the Greek and Roman coins, are of infinite variety, and afford one of the chief amusements arising from this study. They contain figures of deities, at whole length, with their attributes and symbols; public buildings and diversions; allegorical representations; ceremonies, civil and religious; historical and private events; figures of ancient statues; plants, animals and other subjects of natural history; ancient magistracies with their insignia; in short, almost every object of nature or art.

Some reverses bear the portrait of the queen, the son or the daughter of the prince who appears on the obverse. Such are esteemed highly by antiquaries, not only because it is a rule with them that every coined stamped with portraits on either side is very valuable; but because they identify the personage on the reverse to have been the wife, the son or the daughter of such a particular prince, and by this means help in the adjusting of a series. Some, however, with two portraits are common, as Augustus reverse of Caligula and M. Aurelius reverse of Antoninus Pius.

The reverses of the Roman coins have more of art and design than the Greek; but, in return, the Greek have more exquisite relief and workmanship than the other.

In the very ancient coins no reverse is found, save a rude mark struck into the metal as of an instrument with four blunt points on which the coin was struck. This was owing to the medal being merely fixed firm on that side that it might receive the impression upon the other. By degrees, however, we see some little image of a dolphin or other animal inserted into one of the departments of the rude mark, or into a hollow square. Then follows a perfect reverse of a horse or the like, with a slight mark and at length, without any mark of the hollow square. Such is the progress of the reverses of

coins from rudeness to design, which was soon after carried to refinement.

Some ancient Greek reverses are struck in *intaglio* not in *cameo*, hollow not in relief. Such are those of Caulonia, Crotona, Metapontum and some other ancient cities of Græcia Magna. These reverses sometimes bear the same type in *intaglio* that the obverse has in *cameo;* and sometimes are quite different. When complete reverses appear on the Greek coins, about five hundred years before Christ they are of exquisite relief, minute finish and beauty. The very muscles of men and animals are seen, and will bear inspection with the largest magnifier, as ancient gems. The ancients, certainly, had not eyes different from ours; and it is clear that they must have magnified objects. A drop of water forms a microscope and it probably was the only one of the ancients. To Greek artists, we are indebted for the beauty of the Roman imperial coins; and these are so finely finished, that on some reverses, as that of Nero's decursion, the *adventus* and *progressio* of various emperors, the *fundator pacis* of Severus, the features of the emperor riding or walking, are exact as on the obverse. But, though the best Greek artists were called to Rome, yet the Greek coins under the Roman emperors are sometimes well executed and always full of variety and curiosity.

No Roman or Etruscan coins have been found of the globular form, or indented on the reverse like the early Greek. The first Greek are small pieces of silver, while the Roman are large masses of copper. The former are struck; the latter cast in moulds. Of Roman coins, the reverses are very uniform, the prow of a ship, a car or the like, till about one hundred years before our era, when various reverses appear on their consular coins in all metals. The variety and beauty of the Roman imperial reverses are well known. The medalist much values those which have a number of figures, as the *Puellae Faustinianae* of Faustina, a gold coin no larger than a six pence, which has twelve figures. That of Trajan, *Regna Adsignata* has four. The *Congiarium* of Nerva, five. The Allocution of Trajan, seven: of Hadrian, ten: of Probus, twelve. Some Roman medals have small figures on both sides, as the *Apolloni Sancto*, of Julian II. Such have not received any peculiar name among medalists. Others have only a reverse, as the noted *Spintriati*, which have numerals I, II, etc., on the obverse.

The figures of deities and personifications on the Roman coins are commonly attended with their names, besides being distinguished by their attributes. These names, when without any adjunct, as they sometimes stand, may be safely looked upon as put down merely because it was necessary the coin should have a legend. Thus, in a coin of Lucilla, Venus, though well known by the apple which she always holds in her hand, has yet the name round her, VENVS, without any addition whatever. The like may be observed in a few other instances. But most commonly an adjunct is added, which renders the insertion of the name very proper and necessary, as in

the instance of a Neptune, with NEPTVNO REDVCI; a Venus, with VENERI VICTRICI; and others similar. The like may be said of the coins with a figure of Modesty, PVDICITIAE AVGVSTAE; of virtue, VIRTVS AVGVSTI; and others of the same kind; for it is the legend which appropriates the virtue to the emperor or empress, and thus leaves no doubt as to the meaning of the reverse—a quality not so often observed on modern medals, which are frequently dark as a riddle; and it seems to be the intention of the designer to make the legend and reverse fight a combat together and obscure, not illustrate, each other's meaning.

In Greek coins, however, perhaps it is a superior delicacy that the name of the deity is never expressed, but left to the easy interpretation of six symbols. This remarkable difference is observable in the earliest coins of the two countries, and on which only the bust of the deity or personification is given. The Roman have almost always the name, as PIETAS, LIBERTAS, etc.; while the Greeks content themselves with giving us Ceres with her wheaten garland; Jupiter with his mild countenance, laurel crown and beard; Minerva with her helmet and so forth.

NUMISMATIC LIFE SCENES.

BY E. M. JR.

Missent.

The annoying and to some people amusing error of writing, at one sitting, two letters, to two distinct individuals, upon two entirely different subjects, and then placing each letter in the wrong envelope, has frequently occurred in this world of hurry and strife. One of the most amusing circumstances of this kind was related to us by an old and esteemed numismatic friend. As near as we can remember, our friend had been rather attentive to a young lady, while visiting a coin dealer in New York, but, hearing some stories rather deragatory to the lady's general reputation for good conduct, he sent a missive to his female friend, stating what he heard and that if she could present evidence of the untruthfulness of the reports, he would be willing to continue the acquaintance. Thus, matters stood at the time, and our numismatic friend confined his correspondence to the coin dealers. As time wore on, a letter and package were received, one contained coins from the dealer and the other contained an offer of hand and heart, and the evidence from the lady friend that all reports or stories circulating to the detriment of her character and standing in society were false, endorsed by several male acquaintances. Our friend, knowing full well the trumped-up evidence was prepared with a view of catching him in the toils, and not wishing to commit matrimony as some people commit suicide, sat down and addressed the young miss the following communication, omitting any title:

BUFFALO, N. Y., October 1, 1869.

I am astonished to think you take me for a "seedling." You may think you can fool me with your *proofs*. I know what I assert, and can prove it,

that you have taken advantage of my calls and correspondence with a view of *sucking me in.* Consider our dealings at an end, and as to forming, or having any further connection with you or yours, I beg to be counted out.

Never yours, not even respectfully, —— ———

After inditing this letter, he concluded, he says, to kill all his birds with one brickbat, and so wrote the following letter to the coin dealer:

BUFFALO, N. Y., October 1, 1869.

Your offer is accepted, as the proofs are all right. Make me up a small package, and fix your own time, but you need not make it later than New Year, as I shall be fully able to meet the engagement by that time.

Truly yours, —— ———

Next our friend addressed the envelopes, and immediately enclosed them, *each in the wrong envelope!* In time came a reply to each. First the coin dealer (evidently dumbfounded at the letter he received), as follows:

DEAR SIR—To say that I am astonished at the remarkable letter I have received this moment from you does not half express my indignation. I am insulted, and ask, are you crazy? or do you mean that I shall believe all you say? If this is to be the end of our dealings, return the proof coins I sent you and be gentleman enough to pay the small amount now due. ———

Then came the lady's reply:

Oh, you cannot think how happy I am. Your dear, good, kind letter has filled the measure of my bliss. I send by express a handsome pair of slippers, a meerschaum pipe, some pairs of stockings, a penknife and a porte-monnaie. Please accept the package. Did I interpret your wishes correctly? I shall be ready by New Year, sure. Have just bought all the dry goods, etc., necessary. Shall we spend the honeymoon at home, in New York city, or traveling?

Truly and ever thine, —— ———

Our friend says he simply wrote to the lady that the letter in her possession belonged to —— ———, coin dealer in New York, and the letter intended for her was in the possession of the coin dealer. The error was soon corrected, the coin dealer *laughed,* the young lady *swore,* and our numismatic friend says he will never write but one letter at a time hereafter.

COIN TRADE IN THE FUTURE.

Not a shadow of doubt can exist, when reviewing the rapid increase of coin collectors, that eventually the science of numismatology will be one of the most important studies and pastimes in America. We hope to see societies formed in every city in the coun. try and should not be astonished to find, within the next five years, a number of flourishing periodicals devoted to the coin trade in successful operation. Coin dealers are multiplying on every hand, and, if coins are to be had, there is no reason why the business should not be a profitable one to engage in. A few enterprising coin dealers additional in each of the large cities would benefit collectors as well as dealers vastly. There is room for all, and a great demand for coins.

UNITED STATES CENTS.

The Boston *American Journal of Numismatics* has an article in the July number, under the above caption, which gives a condensed and rather imperfect account of the different types and varieties of the copper issues of the United States Mint, 1793 to 1857 inclusive. The article commences with this statement: "1793.—Of the chain cent there are several varieties. The legend is UNITED STATES OF AMERI." Of the legends, it is well known, that the 1793 cents have two variations. One and the common variety has the legend, on reverse, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, while the rare issue (chain cent) has the legend abbreviated, thus, UNITED STATES OF AMERI. One would be led to suppose, by the statement in the journal, that all the 1793 cents had the abbreviated legend.

In describing the periphery of the 1793 cents, the editor says: "Some have a plain edge, others have stars and stripes on the edge." Both of these statements are erratic. None of the 1793 cents have plain edges, and certainly none have the stars and stripes on the edge. We had the misfortune, once upon a time, to fall into one of these errors, unwittingly, and was pummelled well for it by a writer in the New York numismatic journal, and calmly awaited the opportunity to pounce down upon the unlucky numismatic wight who should be guilty of a similar blunder. Therefore, we give the information, generally known among collectors, that the 1793 cents are distinguished on the periphery, or edge of coin, by two varieties only. One is the so-called "lettered edge," the other has a series of *vines and bars* alternating around the edge. We notice that the beautiful and distinct type, known as the Jefferson Head Cent of 1795, is omitted in the description of the cents of that date.

PHILADELPHIA COIN SALE.

At a sale of coins, at Birch & Son's, April 8, 9 and 10, the following prices were realized, which we transfer to our columns—also the result of the New York sale—from our Boston cotemporary, having failed in personal attendance at either of the sales:

English Coins—Crown of Charles I, $6; another type, $3; thirty shilling piece of James VI, of Scotland, 1669, $3; half crown, Elizabeth, fine, $5 25; William III shilling, uncirculated, $1 40; Anna shilling, fine, $1; George II and III shillings, fine, $1 each; Frankfort two thaler piece, 1861, $2 25; one thaler piece, 1859, $1 50; Maximilian dollar, $1 80; pattern dollar of Chile, 1868, proof, $3 25; Chile twenty cent piece, $1 87; tetradrachm of Athens, $2 75; tetradrachm of Macedonia, $4; tetradrachm of Alexander, $4 50; tetradrachm of Alexander, $2 25.

United States Coinage—New Orleans Mint dollar, 1850, $2 75; another, $1 87; half dollars, 1841, $1 50; 1842–43, $1 50 each; 1844, $1; 1845–46, $1 25 each; 1848, $1 05; 1849, $1 30; 1851, $1; 1860, $1; another, $1 12; 1861, $1 87; all fine; quarter dollar, 1840, not milled, $3 50; 1842, large date, $1 12; 1856, $1; medals, Henry

Clay, by Wright, $2; Gen. Taylor, size 48, $3 15; Gen. Scott, size 56, $1 75; Eccleston's Washington medal, $7.

Pattern pieces, half dollar, 1838, flying eagle, $3 12; nickel cent, 1856, proof, $1 87; 5 "Cents," nickel, 1867, $1; set of V, III and I cent pieces, 1868, "Mint price, $9 a set," $1 each; set of V, III and I cent pieces, 1869, $1 12 each; three cent piece, size of old cent, copper, 1863, $3; proof set, 1856, $19; proof set, 1858, $11.

Dollars, 1795, $1 55; dollar, fillet head, $2 75; another, $2 50; 1797, extra good, $4 25; 1798, extra good, $4 25; 1799, very fine, $4; 1800, fine, $2 75; 1801, $2 75; 1802, fine, $5 25; 1844, extra, $2 25; 1845, fine, $2 25; 1846, very fine, $2 50; 1847, fine, $2; 1848, fine, $2 60; 1853, fine, $3 25; 1857, fine, $3.

Half dollars, 1794, extra, $2 50; 1795, uncirculated, $5 50; 1795, uncirculated, $2 25; 1797, $8 50; 1805 over 1804, $2; 1807, $2 50; quarter dollar, 1846, $1; dimes, 1801, $1 25; 1803, $2; half dimes, 1797, $1 50; 1801, very poor, $1; 1844, uncirculated, $1; half eagle, 1803, $6 75; quarter eagle, 1798, $6 50.

United States cents, 1793, $8; two others, $3 50 each; another, Liberty cap, perfect planchet, very good, $5 50; 1794, uncirculated, $4 25; another, fine, $2 25; another, $2; 1795, extra, $3 25; 1800, uncirculated, $5 50; 1803, uncirculated, $3 50; 1804, fair, $4; 1805, fine, $3; 1806, fine, $2; 1809, uncirculated, $24 50; 1810, uncirculated, $7; 1811, $2 25; 1813, $2; 1817, very fine, $2 25; 1817, very fine, $2; 1821, uncirculated, $5 75; 1827, very fine, $2; 1828, very fine, $2; 1829, very fine, $3; 1833, two, fine, $1 each; 1836, two, fine, $1 each; 1839, uncirculated, $2 25; two others, $2 87 and $2 12 each; 1840, two, fine, $1 50 and $1 60 each; 1843, three, fine, $1 25 and $1 50 each; 1844, uncirculated, $2; 1849 and 1850, uncirculated, $1 37 and $1 50 each; 1857, proof, $5 50; 1857, proof, uncirculated, $1.

Virginia penny, 1773, large planchet, proof, $3; Virginia penny, 1773, uncirculated, $2; unique Vermont piece, $5; Washington cent, 1791, small eagle, very fine, $6 50; medal of John Paul Jones, in silver, size 40, $6 25.

Priced catalogues of the sale can be obtained of Mason & Co., Assembly Building, Philadelphia.

NEW YORK COIN SALE.

The collection of Mr. Benjamin Haines, of Elizabeth, N. J., was sold by Geo. A. Leavitt & Co., New York, on the 11th and 12th of April last. We note the prices of some of the specimens:

United States cents, 1799, poor, $3; 1804, $6 75; 1804, poor, $2 37; 1805, poor, $2 37; 1806, good, $1 75; 1809, fair, $1 25; 1837, uncirculated, $1 25; half cents, 1793, obv., poor, $1 03; 1802, good, $1 65; Washington cent, large eagle, proof, $6 50; oval sleeve button, silver, bust of Washington, $3 50; Liverpool half penny, Washington President, $1 50; North Wales half penny, bust of Washington, $2; half disme, Martha Washington head, $5 50;

Feuchtwanger's three cent piece, rev., eagle on a rock, 1837, $5; another, rev., eagle flying with a snake, 1837, $4 50; nickel cent, fine, $1 60; Greek silver tetradrachms, Pergamus, $6; Amyntas, $8.

Paper money of Massachusetts, bill of forty shillings, November 21, 1708, $7; May 31, 1710, twenty shillings, $3; June 20, 1744, one shilling, $6; August 18, 1775, two shillings and sixpence, $2 13; August 18, 1775, twenty shillings and sixpence, $1 75; August 18, 1775, forty shillings, $1; December 7, 1775, eightpence, $1 25; December 7, 1775, one shilling and fourpence, $1 50; December 7, 1775, one shilling and sixpence, $1 37; December 7, 1775, three shillings and fourpence, $1 37; December 7, 1775, two shillings and eightpence, $1 37; December 7, 1775, thirty-six shillings, $4; June 18, 1776, threepence and sixpence, two notes, $1 75 each; June 18, 1776, one shilling and threepence, and ninepence, two notes, $2 25; June 18, 1776, one shilling and eightpence, and three shillings and sixpence, $1 75; June 18, 1776, four shillings and fourpence, $1 75; June 18, 1776, bill of $4 and $7, $2 25 each; nine others, 1776–79, $1 to $2 each. Quite a full series of the bills of Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, brought from five cents to two dollars each.

Priced catalogues can be obtained of Mason & Co., Assembly Building, Philadelphia.

NEW SET OF JAPANESE COINS.

There is now being coined at San Francisco, a set of Japanese silver coins, of five pieces, from one dollar to half a dime in size and value. The reverse of the coin contains in the centre a representation of an antique metalic mirror, symbolical of the rising sun. Above the mirror is a circle mathematically drawn and subdivided into segments, representing a chrysanthemum. Below the mirror is a branch of the "kiri" tree having three stems, with five, seven and five blossoms and three leaves. On the sides of the mirror are the imperial Japanese standards—one containing the sun and the other the moon. Around these devices is a wreath, one side composed of chrysanthemum leaves and the other of "kiri" leaves. The obverse or face of the coin has in the centre the figure of a dragon, the emblem of wisdom and purity, and a symbol of imperial power. The Japanese inscriptions on the face of the coin around the dragon may be translated "Great Sun Rising," the name of Japan, and "Third year of peace and enlightenment," the official designation of the reign of the present emperor. The special name and value are placed on each coin.

PHILADELPHIA COIN SALE.

The collection of coins sold by Birch & Son, on April 8, 9 and 10, realized about $1100. The attendance was large and the common coins sold at a large advance over any previous sale.

NOT DEAD.

Some of the touching obituary notices we have received from persons who believed that our magazine had kicked its last kick are amusing. Witness the following:

CHICAGO, June 5, 1872.

DEAR SIR: You sent me the January number of your magazine for this year, with a view, I suppose, of getting a dollar and a half subscription out of me and then bursting up the institution. I now hear that you have caved in, sold out your traps and are keeping a show shop in Philadelphia. You are now, no doubt, indulging in boarding house grub—"Peace to your hashes."

A. T. H.

NEW YORK, June 20, 1872.

GENTS: I have not received the May or June numbers of the magazine. I must confess the last few issues of your journal looked a little white about the gills, but I did not think that little paleness would produce sickness and a collapse of the magazine. Apart from personalties, I liked your journal and expected it would reach a ripe old age. If it is really dead and gone, I would not take fifty dollars for my set; but, if resuscitated I'll sell out for less than half that price. Please remit balance of subscription due to one of the mourners.

L. U. P.

ALL ALIVE.

There has been a general belief, among numismatists, that the *Coin Collectors' Magazine* had departed with the last issue, notwithstanding the announcement by the editor that this publication would be continued as a *quarterly*, commencing with July of the present year. Some kindly disposed person wrote our epitaph, which we insert as a specimen of the sympathy intended for a supposed misfortune, and, although this *ante mortum* poetry was prepared for another numismatic journal, it miscarried and was found in a coin dealer's store, and handed us by a warm friend and earnest supporter in the numismatic cause. The owner of the manuscript can have the same by calling at our office.

DEFUNCT.

(*Written on the death of Mason's Coin Collectors' Magazine, June* 1, 1872.)

Departed, in the balmy month of June,
Of the nineteenth century, seventy-two;
A numismatic journal, out of tune
At sea—deserted by a faithless crew.

To *cents*, this journal many years was wed,
And might have lived a life serene and "nobby;"
But lacking *sense*, somewhere about the head,
Fell a victim to its worship'd hobby.

Now gather near, ye numismatic wights
And shed a tear as this you're scanning o'er,
Knowing if, here below, all had their rights
This magazine would sure have died before.

MORAL.

Those who to edit magazines aspire,
And are not filled with numismatic lore;
Had better jump at once into the fire
And burn their aspirations to the core.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS, BOSTON.

The first number of the seventh volume of this valuable aid to numismatic literature is upon our table, filled with a variety of useful and entertaining articles. This, the July number, comes to us while on the eve of publishing the first number of the quarterly issue of our own journal. The Boston publication presents a fine engraving, representing the obverse and reverse of the Rumford Medal, accompanied by an editorial review of the life of Count Rumford. On page 4 we are treated to an entertaining paper on the "Counterfeit 'N. E.' and Pine Tree Money," followed by an article on the types and varieties of the "United States Cents." Then follows "Indian Currency in New Jersey, 1672," "An Early Boston Medal," "American Coinage," "The Origin of the Mark Newby Coppers" (timely and exceedingly interesting), "Double Sovereign of Edward VI," a communication from Robert Morris, L. L. D., concerning "A Mass of Coins from the Debris of Oriental Cities" (which should be read by all numismatists), "Weight of Hannah (Hull) Sewall," "Coins of Edward I, II, III," "Wear of our Silver Coins," "Transactions of Societies," "Voce Populi Half Pence," "Letter from W. E. Dubois" (which we have reprinted), "Nova Constellatio Coins," "Singular Discovery," "Treasure Trove," "Philadelphia and New York Coin Sales," "Early Copper Currency in America," "New York Copper Coinage," also a number of miscellaneous items. By this resume of the contents of one number, our readers can readily surmise the value of the Boston journal, and if they fail to subscribe now, at the beginning of a new volume, the loss is theirs, the grief ours, in behalf of the progress of numismatics. Two dollars per annum in advance. Send the money to Jeremiah Colburn, No. 18 Somerset Street, Boston, Massachusetts, and return thanks to us for good advice.

EDITORIAL NUMISMATIC TOUR.

Having been disappointed in a proposed European tour this summer, we shall turn our attention to New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Massachusetts, leaving Philadelphia about the 15th inst. Our principal stopping places, on numismatic business, will be Newark and Jersey City, in New Jersey; New York and Brooklyn, in New York; Hartford and New Haven, in Connecticut; besides Springfield, Lowell, Woburn, Highlands, Cambridge and Boston, in Massachusetts. Returning from Massachusetts, we shall probably stop a short time at intermediate stations on the route of the Boston and Albany Railroad, and Hartford, New Haven and New York route. Subscribers and patrons wishing coins, or having coins to dispose of, will please drop a line, stating their wants, prior to the 15th inst.

LIGHTBODY'S COLLECTION.

Mr. Lightbody, of New York, has sold his fine collection of rare coins to J. W. Haseltine, of this city.

EARLY SILVER PATTERN PIECES.

John W. Haseltine, of this city, has recently come into possession of two excessively rare (*if not unique*) United States experimental or pattern coins, for a proposed issue of silver dollars and half dollars These pieces are very similar to the Nova Constellatio coppers of 1783, with the substitution of 1000 mills on the larger coin, and 500 mills on the smaller, for the initials U. S., which appear in the the centre of the coppers, obverse side. The patterns are in silver and in most beautiful condition. The former owner of these two gems, Rathmel Wilson, of Delaware, gives their history as follows: "The history of the two coins, viz.: Nova Constellatio, 1783, U. S. 1000; Nova Constellatio, 1783, U. S. 500, is as follows: They were the property of Hon. Charles Thomson, Secretary of the first Congress. At his death, his property was left by will to his nephew, John Thomson, of Newark, Delaware. These two coins were found in the desk of said deceased Charles Thomson, and preserved by his nephew during his life; at his death they came into possession of his son, Samuel E. Thomson, of Newark, Delaware, from whom I obtained them. So you will perceive their genuineness cannot be questioned, as they were never out of the possession of the Thomson family until I received them."

PAPER MONEY.

A little book of thirty pages, bearing this title, has been presented to us by the compiler and publisher, John W. Haseltine, of this city. The work describes chronologically the different issues of colonial and continental paper money, and in its printing, make up and quality of paper stands without a rival.

Mr. Haseltine's little work will be of great assistance in the formation of the different series by collectors, but we regret that the degrees of rarity of the notes were not given. This work has some fine illustrations of a number of rare notes, and the book as a whole is an important addition to the publications on paper money and one that all collectors should have who feel an interest in the historical progress of our country. Price, $1 60. Can be had at this office, or will be sent by mail on receipt of price.

ADVANCE IN THE VALUE OF COINS.

All classes of United States coins, excepting, perhaps pattern pieces, have advanced this year at least twenty-five per cent. over former prices. Rare dates of cents are rarely met with. The 1799 and 1804 issues seem to have been absorbed, and it is difficult to meet with them, in fine condition, except at public sales.

TO OUR PATRONS.

We commence, with this issue, the first number of our quarterly publication, and hope to increase the size eventually and add many improvements, that we may point with pride to our journal as the leading numismatic publication of America.

JAPANESE MONEY.

A recent steamer brought to San Francisco about two million dollars in Japanese gold currency, sent there to be refined and prepared for coinage under the system just adopted in Japan. These coin, called "nibos," are flat pieces of gold about one inch long and half an inch wide, containing twenty per cent. of silver, and are valued at fifty-three cents each. The metal is to be returned in fine gold bars of about nine hundred fine, ready to be converted into coin. The silver separated from the coin is also to be returned in fine silver bars. The coined money in circulation in Japan amounts in value to fifty million of dollars, and it was found that with the limited refining works in that country it would take five years to accomplish the object of changing the currency. Arrangements were therefore made with the gold refineries of San Francisco to refine twenty million dollars worth of "nibos," the coin to be sent at the rate of two million dollars a month. The Japanese have a mint at Hiogo, where the refined bars are coined as fast as they are received.

REDEMPTION OF COPPER COINS.

The United States Mint in 1871 redeemed and destroyed one million five thousand two hundred and fifteen copper one cent pieces, bearing date prior to 1858. Thus far, in 1872, about one and a half million coppers additional have been redeemed.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. P. L.—It is not our intention to desert the coin trade; but, on the contrary, to push it with greater vigor than ever. Upon our return from New England, our readers will receive a circular of such coins, etc., as we may pick up while absent.

SUBSCRIBERS.—We return thanks to all patrons who have so faithfully stood by us in the publication of this magazine, and in our future dealings their kindness will be remembered.

L. H.—All orders for coins during our absence will be faithfully filled by a competent assistant. Coins sent as usual, on approval.

S. M. R.—We are in want of January numbers of 1870. Cannot furnish a complete set of our magazines to any one In fact, we have not retained one for our own use.

CARRHART, JACKSON, MICH.—Not in want of the coins you enumerate.

A. T., CHICAGO.—We can supply you with any campaign medals issued, wholesale or retail.

CHANDLER, FRYEBURG CENTRE, ME.—Your collection does not contain the rare dates. Could not give the value without a personal inspection.

VAN ARSDALE, KENOSHA, WIS.—Jubilee medals will be ready about the 15th inst. Price list or catalogue of 64 pages, September 1. Our next sale will include some choice pieces.

T.—Boston journal says 1808 cents, with fillet heads. Not so.

CAMPAIGN MEDALS.

These medals, struck of the best albitium, which is as white and nearly as hard as silver, and can scarcely be distinguished from the same, are warranted not to tarnish nor become dull, but will always keep as fine as when first struck from the dies. Sent with or without ribbons.

1. Obv., bust of General Grant. Rev., "May he in Wisdom rule the Country," &c.
2. Obv., bust of General Grant. Rev., "I intend to fight it out on this line if it takes all summer," &c.
3. Obv., bust of President Grant. Rev., "Protection to American Industry," &c.
4. Obv., bust of President Grant. Rev., "Republican Candidate for President," &c.
5. Obv, bust of President Grant. Rev., "The Constitution and the Union," &c.
6. Obv., bust of President Grant, very small size. Rev., "For President, General U. S. Grant."
7. Obv., bust of Horace Greeley. Rev., "Liberal Republican Candidate for President," &c.
8. Obv., bust of Major General John F. Hartranft, Republican Candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania. Rev., "The Hero of Fort Steadman and Twenty-four Battles."
9. Obv., bust of Charles R. Buckalew. Rev., "Democratic Candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania."
10. Obv., Rev., "Democratic Candidate for President." This will be issued immediately on the nomination being made by the Democratic Convention, in Baltimore.

The above medals will be mailed for 15 cents each, or $7 50 per hundred by express.

MASON'S COIN AND MEDAL DEPOT,
No. 108 South Tenth Street, Philadelphia.

McGILL COLLEGE AND ITS MEDALS.

Five pages of photographic illustrations, handsomely printed on heavy toned paper. Price, $1 25, gold. Address Alfred Sandham, Montreal, Canada.

A SUPPLEMENT TO COINS OF CANADA.

Alfred Sandham, Montreal, Canada, has issued the promised supplement to his very able work on the "Coins, Tokens and Medals of Canada." Our subscribers can receive it by remitting to Mr. Sandham 50 cents in specie.

CANADIAN ANTIQUARIAN.

In consequence of numerous obstacles, inseparable from a first number, the above magazine will not be issued before July 15.